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GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO SIGNS HOMELAND SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH NEW MEXICO

PHOENIX - In Washington, D.C. at an annual meeting of the National Governors Association, Governor Janet Napolitano signed a Memorandum of Understanding with New Mexico governor Bill Richardson that will enable both states to share unclassified intelligence information to better provide homeland security.

"The safety of our citizens is of primary importance," said Governor Napolitano. "I'm pleased we can work together in this unprecedented way to coordinate our states' security resources."

The two states will establish a cooperative relationship between the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) and the Border Center of Excellence for Research and Intelligence (CERI) in New Mexico, to incorporate joint exercises between Arizona and New Mexico and other border states, as well as conduct other relevant activities to prepare the states to respond to homeland security threats.

"There is no higher priority for my Administration than the security of New Mexicans," Governor Richardson said. "Today, we are building a relationship that will strengthen our security and that of Arizona's."

A copy of the MOU is attached.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
THE STATE OF ARIZONA and THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Regarding
COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN UNCLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE

The State of Arizona and the State of New Mexico recognize the critical role that the southern border states play in protecting their own citizens and all Americans from external threats, including from crime, but also from public health and agricultural threats.

Both states accept the vital role that intelligence information can play in evaluating threats and in developing appropriate responses. They also recognize the value of cross-disciplinary sharing of information and training, as well as the need for close coordination between local, state and federal agencies.

As a result, both states are establishing centers to share unclassified intelligence information between local, state and federal officials.

Further, both states recognize that the strong relationships they have developed with Mexico's northern border states can enhance this information-sharing and training so as to better protect both U.S. and Mexican citizens.

THEREFORE,

1. The State of Arizona and the State of New Mexico agree to establish a cooperative relationship between the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) and the Border Center of Excellence for Research and Intelligence (CERI) in New Mexico.
2. As part of this cooperative relationship, officials from ACTIC and CERI will establish protocols for sharing information both on a routine basis and under special circumstances. The Homeland Security Advisors of each state shall be responsible for developing these protocols by July 31, 2004.
3. In addition, ACTIC and CERI agree to incorporate joint intelligence and operational aspects implemented under this MOU in state exercises and will endeavor to conduct at least one exercise per year to test intelligence flow and processes. As appropriate, ACTIC and CERI will invite other border states to participate in these exercises as well.
4. The Homeland Security Advisors of each state will review this agreement as needed, but at least on an annual basis, and make any appropriate changes by mutual written agreement.
5. This MOU is valid for five years from the date of signature and is thereafter renewable on an annual basis by mutual agreement.

Agreed this _____ of _____ 2004.

Janet Napolitano
Governor
State of Arizona

Bill Richardson
Governor
State of New Mexico